

Leather Resource

The area of Santa Croce sull'Arno and Ponte a Egola, in the Municipality of San Miniato, is one of the most famous tanning and leather manufacturing districts. This area is also one of the most important tanning districts in the world, producing 85% of Italian leather, with the brand "Vero Cuoio Italiano" (Real Italian Leather) and of leathers worked with vegetable-tanned products, with the brand "Mani Toscane". About one hundred companies offer the national and foreign markets products of the highest quality for shoes and every type of leather goods. Innovation, technological development and constant attention to the environment led this district to build a centralized depuration plant in 1980, one of the first and most efficient in Italy.



I.T. "Cattaneo"
San Miniato



Welcome to... San Miniato!



Municipal Coat of
Arms



Country  Italy

Region Tuscany

Province Pisa (PI)

Elevation 140 m (459 ft)

Area 102 km²
(39.4 sq mi)

Population

Total: 26,353

Density: 258/km²
(668/sq mi)

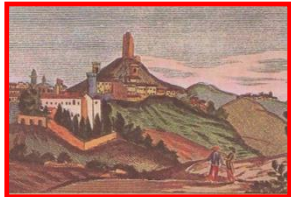




San Miniato is a town and Municipality in the Province of Pisa, in Tuscany. The town is situated on top of three hills and it dominates the lower Arno Valley. It is located at the intersection of the roads that join Florence, Pisa, Lucca, Siena and the famous Via Francigena, which was the main connecting route between Northern Europe and Rome in the Middle Ages. The landscape is enchanting with tobacco mills, old boroughs, ancient churches, Medicean villas and ancient castles.

History

San Miniato is a land of Etruscan and Roman settlements.



The town was founded by the Longobards in the 8th century, when they built a church dedicated

to the martyr Miniato. The town has therefore Germanic origins and in the Middle Ages it became known as San Miniato al Tedesco.

In the 13th century, under Frederick II of Swabia, the town was fortified with walls and other defensive works, including the "Rocca" (the Fortress). In the 13th and the 14th centuries, San Miniato was drawn into the ongoing conflict between the Ghibellines and the Guelphs. By 1370 San Miniato was under Florentine control. Later it became part of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany and it was still part of it when it was absorbed into the newly-formed Kingdom of Italy in 1860. At the end of the 19th century, San Miniato had become a town in its own right. During the Second World War the German Army mined and destroyed the Fortress of Frederick II, but it was rebuilt in 1957.



November. It is a market which attracts thousands of Italian and foreign visitors.

"Slow Town" and the Town of Flavours

San Miniato is not only a "Slow Town" but also a "Città dei Sapori" (a Town of Flavours) and it is famous for its wines, extra virgin olive oil, pork products and many other agricultural products. With these raw materials, craftsmen create high quality typical products which have become the basis of "Slow Food". In this



period of globalisation, some towns have decided to form an organisation, where slowness and typical local food are symbols of a good and healthy lifestyle, so the

"Slow Town" Association has come to life.

The Town of Theatre

Theatre, plays and all types of performances have very old roots in San Miniato, perhaps ever since they chose San Genesio, an actor, to be their Patron Saint many centuries ago. Since 1947 the "Istituto del Dramma Popolare" (Folk Drama Institute), which collaborates with the "Accademia di



Arte Drammatica" (Dramatic Art Academy) in Rome, has had its headquarters in San Miniato and each year they put on an open-air performance of a religious drama. This performance attracts international dramatists, directors and actors.



for girls' education, and later it became a school premises. The building is arranged around a cloister with arcades and it has a chapel dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. The Conservatory houses a beautiful painting by Ludovico Cardi called "Il Cigoli", on which the appearance of Christ to Mary Magdalene is represented. There are also paintings by Jacopo Chimenti, called "Empoli" and two Medieval crosses.

The Town of the White Truffle

The white truffle of San Miniato is known as the "Food of Kings" and it populates the tables of the best restaurants in the world. The white truffle found in San Miniato Hills is the "Tuber Magnatum Pico" and is the most valuable type of truffle. It is very expensive, because it is found in moderate quantities in particular periods of the year. You can find it only for three months: in October,



November and December. The largest truffle ever found was given to the President of The USA, Truman, in 1954. It weighed 2 kilos and 540 grams. The National White Truffle Exhibition is held in San Miniato every year, in the month of



Itinerary

Our walking tour starts with **Piazza del Popolo** with its **Church of the Saints Jacopo and Lucia**, also called the **Church of San Domenico**, with its adjacent cloisters of the Convent. This church dates back to 1330, so it is very old, as we can see from its façade. Inside the church we can





see some works of art such as a fresco of Sant'Anselmo and Chiellini's tomb, dating back to the 15th century.

Next to the Church we can see the amazing **Via Angelica**, which is an ancient path that runs along the right wall of the Church of the Saints Jacopo and Lucia. In the past it was the connecting route between the town and the country. Along this ancient path there



are three chapels, decorated with 14th - century frescoes and 18th - century decorations.

Going down Via Conti, we reach an important square, **Piazza del Seminario**, where we can admire the **Palace of the Seminary**. The square has an asymmetric shape.



The Palace dates back to 1713 and it is characterized by its concave façade decorated with frescoes and phrases in Latin. The wooden doors of the old Medieval shops can still be seen. In the 15th century, there were houses and shops leaning on the castle wall. On the other side of the square we can see the rear façade of the Bishop's Palace. From this square, we can go up to **Piazza del Duomo**, where we can admire the **Cathedral**, which is dedicated to Santa Maria Assunta and San Genesio.



It was built in the 12th century and has a beautiful Romanesque façade, which also exhibits Gothic and Renaissance architectural elements. Its **Bell Tower**, called "Matilde Tower", has an asymmetrical clock. The building in front of the Cathedral is the **Bishop's Palace**. It is the residence of the Bishop of San Miniato.

as the area of the Lower Valdarno, Volterra's hills, the Apennines and the sea.

Pier delle Vigne, Frederick II's Chancellor, was imprisoned here for treason until his death, as Dante writes in the 13th "Canto of Inferno" in his "Divina Commedia". Leaving "the Rocca" behind us, we reach the 14th - century **Convent and Church of Saint Francis**.



Saint Francis stayed in San Miniato for a short time and founded this Convent. For many centuries it was one of the main Franciscan centres in Tuscany.

From here it is easy to reach "Il **Piazzale**" and **Piazza Dante Alighieri**, where San Miniato's market is held every Thursday morning. On the way back to school you can see Palazzo Formichini, seat of "Cassa di Risparmio di San Miniato". On the right we can admire **Grifoni Palace**. This



Renaissance **Palace** was built in 1555 by Giuliano of Baccio d'Agnolo for Ugolino Gufoni, Secretary of the Grand Duke Cosimo I dei Medici. The building was destroyed during the Second World War, later it was restored and regained its original splendour. Now it is the headquarters of "Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di San Miniato".



Going down Via Roma, we reach the **Conservatory of Santa Chiara**. The Monastery of Santa Chiara was built in the 13th century, but the present building dates back to the 14th century. In the 18th century it was transformed into a Conservatory

phial of wine mixed up with water in her right hand; "Fortitude" is holding a sword and is wearing a helmet; "Hope" is praying; "Charity" has got a flame in her right hand and a piece of paper in her left hand and "Faith" has a cross on her left shoulder.



"La Sala del Consiglio Comunale" is situated next to the "Sala delle Sette Virtù", and it contains Galli Angelini's famous frescoes depicting the history of San Miniato. In one of them we can see a knight riding a horse and holding a sword in his right hand. On the right there is a parchment and on the left there is the knight's Coat of Arms.

Next to this fresco, we can see a man holding a green book in his left hand and a quill in his right hand. He is wearing a red robe and a red hat. In the corner, there is his family's Coat of Arms.

In another fresco we can see the Virgin Mary who is talking to San Miniato, San Genesio, Sant'Agostino and San Francesco.

The room is decorated with frescoes depicting the Coats of Arms of famous Noble Families from San Miniato and famous leaders of mercenary companies such as Franco Sacchetti.

After visiting the Town Hall, we head off to the **Tower of Frederick II**, called "**La Rocca**", which is a 37 - metre tall tower, built by Frederick II of Swabia in 1217. It was the central core of the Imperial defensive system. It is the landmark of the town. The tower was destroyed during the Second World War and rebuilt in 1958. From its top you can admire the



special ribbon-like layout of the town and stunning landscapes such



Inside the Palace, there is a chapel, which is dedicated to the Assumption and St. John the Baptist.

Leaving Piazza del Duomo, we head off to the **Sanctuary of the Most Holy Crucifix**. The church, which stands between "La Rocca", the Cathedral and the Town Hall, was built in the 18th century. While the decoration of the façade is very simple, the walls inside the church are completely painted with "Scenes of Christ's Life" by Anton Domenico Barberini. On the main altar there is a tabernacle containing the



famous "Holy Crucifix", which is venerated and thought to be miraculous.

In front of the Sanctuary there is the **Town Hall**, which was built at the end of the 13th century. Inside we can admire two beautiful rooms

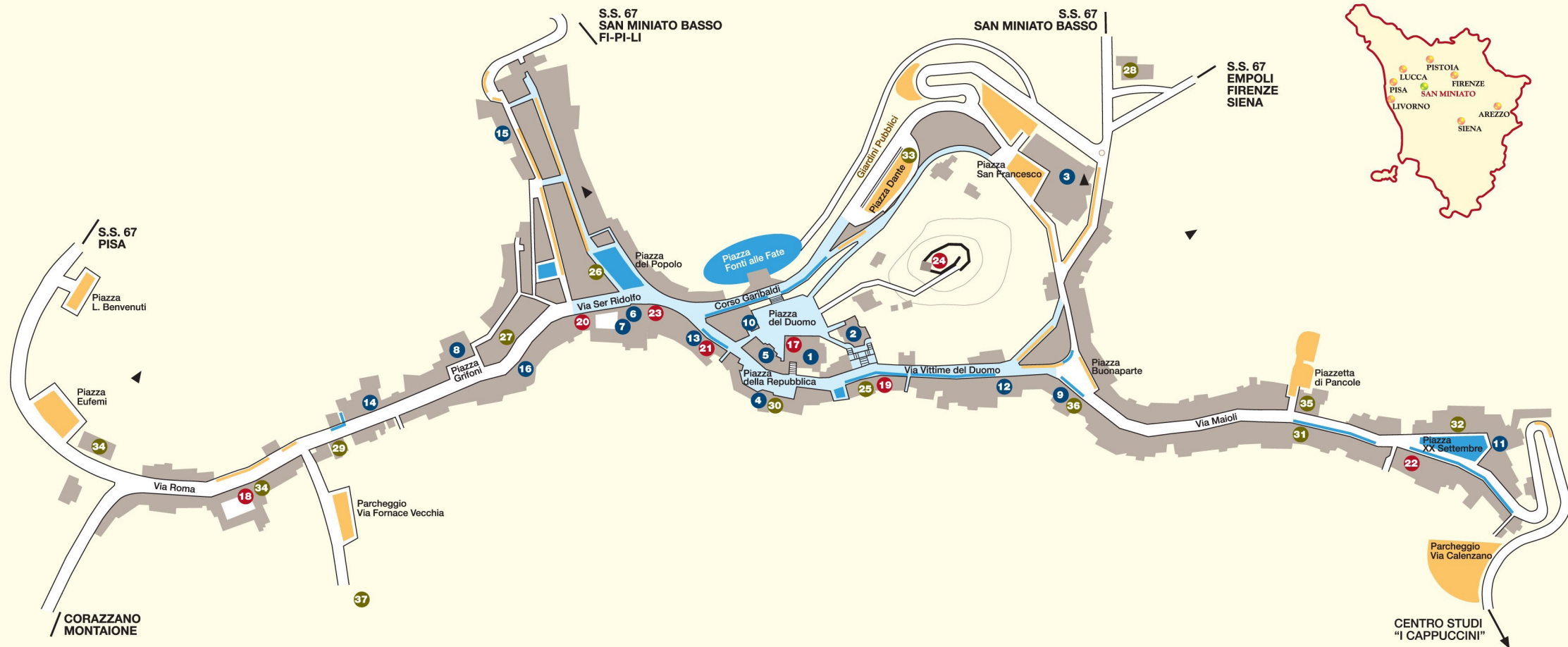


decorated with frescoes from the 13th to the 15th centuries: "La Sala delle Sette Virtù", and "La Sala Consiliare".

The frescoes in "La Sala delle Sette Virtù" were painted between the 2nd and the 4th centuries. The most important fresco is the "Virgin

Mary nursing her Child surrounded by the Theological and Cardinal Virtues". In the middle of the painting, you can see the Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus. Around her there are some female figures, who are symbols of the Seven Virtues. "Justice" is holding a sword in her right hand and scales in her left hand; "Prudence" is pointing to a mirror with her right hand; "Temperance" is holding a

San Miniato City Map



I PRINCIPALI MONUMENTI

- 1 CATTEDRALE
- 2 SANTUARIO SS. CROCIFFISSO
- 3 CONVENTO DI SAN FRANCESCO
- 4 SEMINARIO VESCOVILE
- 5 VESCOVADO
- 6 CHIESA DI SAN IACOPO E LUCIA
- 7 CONVENTO DI SAN DOMENICO
- 8 PALAZZO GRIFONI
- 9 PALAZZO BUONAPARTE
- 10 PALAZZO DEI VICARI
- 11 CHIESA DI SANTA CATERINA
- 12 CHIESA DI SANTO STEFANO
- 13 PALAZZO ROFFIA
- 14 CHIESA SS. ANNUNZIATA
- 15 SAN MARTINO
- 16 PALAZZO FORMICHINI

IL SISTEMA MUSEALE

- 17 MUSEO DIOCESANO D'ARTE SACRA
- 18 CONSERVATORIO DI SANTA CHIARA
- 19 ORATORIO DEL LORETINO
- 20 MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO
- 21 ARCICONFRATERNITA DI MISERICORDIA
- 22 ACCADEMIA DEGLI EUTELETI
- 23 VIA ANGELICA
- 24 ROCCA DI FEDERICO II

I SERVIZI

- 25 COMUNE
- 26 UFFICIO TURISMO
- 27 POSTA
- 28 CARABINIERI
- 29 GUARDIA DI FINANZA
- 30 POLIZIA MUNICIPALE
- 31 GIUDICE DI PACE
- 32 OSPEDALE
- 33 MERCATO SETTIMANALE (martedì mattina)
- 34 SCUOLE SUPERIORI
- 35 CASA DI RIPOSO
- 36 AGENZIA DELLE ENTRATE
- 37 CAMPO SPORTIVO

I PARCHEGGI

- PARCHEGGI LIBERI
 - PARCHEGGI REGOLAMENTATI
 - ZONA TRAFFICO LIMITATO
In vigore tutte le domeniche e festivi infrasettimanali dal 30 Marzo al 9 Novembre 2003 (escluso il mese di agosto)
- Durante i giorni di chiusura del centro storico i parcheggi all'interno della zona a traffico limitato non sono accessibili